A

TREATISE

TOUCHING THE

East-Indian Trade:

OR,

A *Diſcourſe* (turned out of *French* into *Engliſh*)

Concerning the Eſtabliſhment of a

FRENCH COMPANY

FOR THE

COMMERCE of the *EAST-INDIES*.

To which are annexed, The

ARTICLES and CONDITIONS

Whereupon the ſaid

COMPANY for the *Commerce* of the *EAST-INDIES* is Eſtabliſhed.

LONDON,

Printed for *H. B.* and are to be ſold by *Robert Boulter* at the *Turks Head* in *Cornhill*. 1676.

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the [illegible] Head in Cornhill.

TO THE READER.

NOT *to uſher in this following Diſcourſe with a long and needleſs* Preface, *it ſhall ſuffice, that the* Publiſher *thought it worth the Tranſlating, both as an Entertainment to himſelf, and as a further Service and Reſpect to his* Countrey-men. *You have the ſcope of it in the* Title; *viz.* A Diſcourſe touching the Eſtabliſhment of a *FRENCH COMPANY* for the *COMMERCE* of the *EAST-INDIES*: *Which Diſcourſe contain in ſhort an earneſt and well-couch'd Recommendation of* Commerce, *by divers Arguments of utility and convenience, as well Private as Publique; drawn from the Experience and ſucceſs of thoſe Nation, that have apply'd themſelves to Traffique; adjudging ſeveral advantages, in fine, to the* French, *above all other People in the World, in order to the Dominion of the Sea, and ſettling of an univerſal Trade; wherein our Neighbours (how clear-ſighted ſoever in other matters) may perhaps live to find their miſtake; and that it will coſt them more than the daſh of a Pen, to become our Rivales; eſpecially at a time when the humour of the* People *runs ſo violently that way, and upon a point, which the moſt abſolute Soveraign of the Seas in the whole Univerſe* (CHARLES the Second, *and the* Great) *has taken*

upon Himself to carry on (within the Bounds of Honour and Justice) to the highest Degree of Improvement, and Reputation imaginable.

To the Treatise above-mentioned, here are likewise annexed the Articles *and* Conditions *themselves, as they were presented to his* Most Christian Majesty *at* Fountaine-Bleau; *where they receiv'd the* Royal Sanction, *and were forthwith imprinted at* Paris. *And the* Reader *may take further notice, That his* Most Christian Majesty's Allowances *are inserted in the Margin.*

Imprimatur,

June 13. 1674.

Roger L'Estrange.

A

DISCOURSE

WRITTEN BY

A Faithful Subject to His *Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty*,

CONCERNING

The Eſtabliſhment of a *FRENCH COMPANY* for the Commerce of the *EAST-INDIES*.

Dedicated to the Whole French Nation.

AS it is a Matter of great *Reputation* and *Security* to any State, to have a People trained up in the Knowledge and Exerciſe of *Arms*; ſo is it of great *Utility* and *Convenience*, that they likewiſe addict themſelves to *Commerce*, by which means the Benefits of the whole World are brought home to their own doors: Beſide that by this Employment alone, are acquired the Two Things which Wiſe Men account of all Others the moſt Neceſſary to the well-being of a Common-wealth; that is to ſay, a general *Induſtry* of *Mind*, and *Hardineſs* of *Body*, which never fail to be accompanied with *Honour* and *Plenty*. So that queſtionleſs, where *Commerce* does not flouriſh, as well as other Profeſſions, and where particular Perſons, out of a habit of Lazineſs, neglect at once the Nobleſt way of employing their Times, and the faireſt Occaſions of advancing their Fortunes, That Kingdom, though otherwiſe never ſo Glorious, wants ſomething of being Completely happy. But in truth, it is

with *Commerce*, as with the *Liberal Sciences*; that Man or State that would improve either of them, muſt be at *Quiet*; *Peace* being the ſame thing to a *Community*, which *Tranquility* of *Mind* is to each *Individual*. What can be more importune, or unſeaſonable, than in the middle of a *War*, either Foreign or Inteſtine, when every Mans Duty calls upon him to defend his Country, for People to be undertaking of long Voyages, and tranſporting themſelves into remote Parts, their principal Obligation and Buſineſs lying at Home! In ſuch a Caſe as this, he that *abſents* himſelf from his Country, is in conſtruction a *Deſerter* of it, and turns That, which at another time were an honeſt and laudable deſire of Benefit, into a criminal Avarice. The Broyles and Troubles of *France*, for theſe *Hundred* Years and upwards, are ſo well known, that to tell the Story, were but needleſly to revive the memory of thoſe Misfortunes, which we muſt ſtrive to forget: It ſhall ſuffice therefore to note, That the State of *France*, having eſcaped ſo many Tempeſts and Rocks, was yet once again emplunged in a Civil War, at the beginning of the laſt Kings Reign, upon the Point of Religion; which Affair being happily determined, and the People reduced to their Obedience, without any Violence, either to their Liberties or Conſciences, there ſucceeded an Obligation to engage in a Conteſt with Strangers, which proved to be one of the longeſt Wars that has been known in *France* ſince the Foundation of this *Monarchy*. And though the Juſtice of the Cauſe, the Valour of the Prince, and the Wiſdom of his Council, have never failed of being attended with Victory; yet certain it is, that theſe Advantages have not been obtained without infinite Care and Labour throughout the whole Body of the State. So that it is no wonder, if the *French* having ſo much to do at *Home*, look'd but little *Abroad*, eſpecially into the Buſineſs of *Navigation* and *Traffick*, wherein our Neighbours in the *interim* have beſtowed ſo much Study and diligence, and from whence they have likewiſe reaped ſo much Reputation and Profit. Some private

vate Enterprizes indeed have been set afoot, and without that Success which the Undertakers promised to themselves; but this will not appear strange at all, if we consider, that the greater part of the Adventurers, having other Affairs wherein they were more nearly concerned, during our Troubles, did neither vigorously pursue what they had begun, nor indeed so much as take the pains to keep the Frame of their Design in order. But *now* that it has pleased God to give *France* the Peace it has so long desired, and the Enjoyment of that Peace under the Government of a Prince whose wise Conduct, and steady application to Business, are at once the Wonder, and the Jealousie of all *Europe: Now*, I say, for our Country-men not to put themselves forward toward the recovery of a Right which they can never lose, and toward the gaining to themselves of those inestimable Benefits which their Neighbours receive, by the Settlement of a glorious *Commerce*, were to administer just reason of Astonishment.

Now of all *Commerce* whatsoever throughout the whole World, That of the *East-Indies* is one of the most Rich and Considerable. From *thence* it is (the Sun being kinder to them than to us) that we have our Merchandize of greatest Value, and that which contributes the most not onely to the Pleasure of *Life*, but also to Glory and Magnificence. From *thence* it is, that we fetch our Gold, and Precious-stones, and a thousand other Commodities, (both of a general Esteem, and a certain Return) to which we are so accustomed, that it is impossible for us to be without them; as *Silk*, *Cinamome*, *Pepper*, *Ginger*, *Nutmegs*, *Cotton Clothes*, *Ouate* (vulgarly *Watting*) *Pourcelain*, *Woods* for *Dying*, *Ivory*, *Frankincense*, *Bezoar*, *&c.* So that having an absolute Necessity upon us, to make use of all these things, why we should not rather furnish *our selves*, than take them from *others*; and apply that Profit hereafter to our own *Countrymen*, which we have hitherto allowed to *Strangers*, I cannot understand. Why should the *Portuguez*, the *Hollanders*, the *English*, the *Danes* I have daily to the *East-Indies*, possessing there their

Magazins and their *Forts*; and the *French* neither the *one*, nor the *other*? What does it ſignifie to us, that we have ſo many good *Ports* and *Veſſels*, ſo many experienced *Sea-men*, ſo many brave *Soldiers*? To what end is it, in fine, that we pride our ſelves to be Subjects of the *Prime Monarch* of the *Univerſe*; if, being ſo, we dare not ſo much as ſhew our Heads in thoſe places where our Neighbours have eſtabliſhed themſelves with Power? Were it not in a manner better for us to be without theſe Advantages, than not to uſe them; and to reſt where we are, for want of *Ability* to go further, than for want of *Reſolution*? Would it not be a ſhame to us, to make a difficulty of attempting That in a ſtate of Security, which other People have carried on through all Doubts and Hazards? And to ſtick at the bare Croſſing of thoſe Seas, which others ventured upon, even before they were known? Is it that we lack either *Induſtry* to make uſe of their *Inventions*, or *Courage* to follow their *Example*? Would we have any thing more eaſie, than to reap the Fruits of other Mens Travels? or any ſtronger aſſurance of a good Event, than the Wealth and Glory which they enjoy, that have tried the Experiment?

True it is, that there is a certain Glory which is ſo inſeparable from the Inventors of things, that it is entirely theirs, without any poſſibility of communication. The *Portuguez* will be for ever famous for their Diſcoveries in the Eaſt; and even their Kings themſelves think it no diſhonour to be thought the firſt Projectors of that Enterprize. They ſay, that in the Year 1420. *Henry* Duke *de Viſeo*, Son of King *John* the Firſt, being eminently skill'd in the *Mathematiques*, took up a ſtrong perſwaſion, that there muſt be of neceſſity more *Iſlands* in that Ocean, than were yet known; and ſo ſent out certain Veſſels upon the ſearch, which diſcovered the Iſle of *Madera*: After which, others ſailing along the Coaſt of *Africa*, made New Diſcoveries. This Deſign, that had been ſo luckily ſet afoot, was however interrupted by the Wars, during the Reigns of *Edward* the Succeſſor of *John* the Firſt, and

of *Alphonſus*: But *John* the Second, who ſucceeded *Alphonſus*, (in purſuance of his Predeceſſors Beginnings) ſent out one *Bartholomew Diaz*, in 1487. to skirt the whole Coaſt of *Africa*; and he it was that firſt doubled the *Cape of Good-hope*, to which at firſt he gave the Name of *Cabo Tormentoſo*, becauſe of the Storms which are frequent thereabouts. And this Name perchance would have continued, if the King himſelf had not thought fit to change it for one of a better *Omen*, (*The Cape of Good-hope*) which was grounded upon the Hope he had, that this new Progreſs would open a way to the Conqueſt of the *Oriental Indies*, an Acquiſition which he thirſted for with exceeding paſſion. Yet before he would venture his Shipping into ſo vaſt a Sea, divers Perſons were ſent by Land to the *Indies*, to inform themſelves from the beſt Pilots of the Country, in order to the Voyage: But King *John* dying upon the Preparative, left the Conſummation of this Great Work to his Succeſſor *Emanuel*, who having ſufficiently inſtructed himſelf, as to the carrying of it forward, diſpatched away four Veſſels from *Lisbon* in *July* 1497. under the Command of *Vaſco de Gama*, who in *May* following arrived before *Calicut*, having doubled the *Cape of Good-hope*, notwithſtanding the Storms he met with, and the violent Importunities of his People, preſſing him to return. After two Years abſence, he brought the News himſelf of his proſperous Voyage, and laid the Foundation of greater Hopes to come. In the Year following, the King ſent thither again fourteen Ships, under the Charge of *Pedro Alvarez*, and after that divers other Fleets, to ſecure and fortifie themſelves in a place where they found ſo vaſt a Treaſure: And thus it came to paſs, that when the King of *Caſtile* ſeiſed upon all the New Lands upon the Weſt, the *Portuguez* did the ſame in the Eaſt; and this was it that gave occaſion to the famous *Partition* made by Pope *Alexander* the Sixth, who drawing an imaginary Line from one *Pole* to the other, (to paſs at a hundred Leagues from the *Azores*) adjudged to the King of *Caſtile* all that which was on the Weſt-ſide of

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the Line; not medling with any of those Establishments which the King of *Portugal* had upon the East, which since the *Voyage* of *Vasco de Gama* haue been infinitely encreased. Thus did the constant Resolution of these Princes surmount all Difficulties, bringing both Glory to themselves, and Happiness to their Subjects. Thus did these new *Argonauts* address themselves to the Conquest of the *real Golden Fleece*: for, in fine, the *Portuguez* are indebted to this Navigation for almost all they are worth. This it is that has made them famous in the World, and raised them into an eminent Reputation, although one not onely of the smallest, but of the least fruitful Kingdoms of *Europe*. It is this Traffique (which they have now been sole Masters of a hundred years entire) that has put them in condition to carry so high the Undertakings which we have seen in our days; and they would find it a very hard matter to cope even with the Enemy at their Gates, if it were not, that the inexhaustible Source of their *Indian* Treasure, and Trade from time to time, supplies them for the Expence of so long and so dangerous a War.

What has it been, but this very Navigation and Traffique, that has enabled the *Hollanders* to bear up against the Power of *Spain*, with Forces so unequal; nay, and to become terrible to them, and to bring them down at last to an advantageous Peace? Since that time it is, that this People, who had not onely the *Spaniards abroad*, but the very Sea and Earth *at home* to struggle with, have, in a despite of all Opposition, made themselves so Considerable, that they begin now to dispute Power and Plenty with the greatest part of their Neighbours. This Observation is no more than Truth, their *East-India* Company being known to be the principal Support of their State, and the most sensible Cause of their Greatness. In the mean while, who would have imagined, that the Union of a few particular Merchants, that put in 1595. bethought themselves of the very Project, and did not form this Grand Company till six or seven Years after, should ever have raised them to that point of Opulence

where

where they now ſtand? It is known, that *communibus annis*, there has been yearly 30 or 35 *per cent.* clear Gain to the Sharers; and it is an eaſie matter likewiſe to make a near Calculation of their Occaſional Expences, and yet all this deducted, when they came to make a general Computation of the Eſtate of the Company, in the Year 1661. reckoning what they might have in ready *Caſh*, in *Merchandize*, the value of their Shipping, Cannon, and what thereunto belongs, the Eſtimate upon the whole amounted to a Sum ſo prodigious, that it almoſt exceeds all poſſibility of credit: not accounting all this while, that this Company poſſeſſes more Land in the *Indies*, than the *States of Holland* have in the *Low-Countries*; and this is it that maintains for them 14 or 1500 Soldiers, to make good what they have got, beſide Seamen, and other People, which they employ up and down, to the number of near 80000 Perſons, all ſubſiſting thereupon. So vaſt an encreaſe of Wealth, from ſo ſmall a Beginning, would paſs abſolutely for Fabulous, if we did not both ſee and know, that at this day the *Hollanders* are the beſt Monied People of *Europe*, and that in their Country an Inheritance is worth more than in any other Part of the World; an *Eſtate in Fee* commonly ſelling there at 60 Years Purchaſe, and *Lands in Soccage* at 50; whereas Money goes but at Three *per Cent.* (ſo much is it cheaper than other Goods:) And this does not proceed, I hope, from the Improvement of their drained *Marſhes* into *Paſturage*, nor from the Culture of their other Grounds (which are certainly none of the beſt) but barely from their *Traffique*, and chiefly from that of the *Eaſt-Indies*.

About the ſame time with the *Hollanders*, did the *Engliſh* likewiſe adviſe upon the ſame Deſign, and formed a Company at *London*, for the *Eaſt-India* Trade. This Company ſet out four Ships in the Year 1600. which ſucceeded ſo well, that in a ſhort ſpace of time the *Engliſh* made Twenty Voyages thither. This *new Society* was powerfully protected and encouraged by His Majeſty of *England*, who in 1608.

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ſent Sir *William Hawkins*, in the Quality of Embaſſador, to the *Great Mogol*, (to demand a Free Trade) in deſpite of all the Obſtacles which both the *Portuguez* and the *Hollanders* endeavoured then to caſt in the way. In 1615. his Majeſty ſent Sir *Thomas Roe*, and after him other Embaſſadors, to the Kings of *Japan*, upon the ſame Errand; who wrought ſo well upon the Humour of thoſe *Barbarians*, that they not onely obtained their Deſires, but gained ſo far upon the Affections of the People, that the *Hollanders* themſelves, in order to their better Welcom, would often pretend to be *Engliſhmen*. This *Company* prevailed alſo with the King of *Perſia*, for great *Privileges* in his *Territories*, in conſequence of the Service they did him againſt the *Portuguez*, about the Siege of *Ormus*. But it had been well if they had found him as juſt in the Execution, as he was eaſie in the Promiſe. However, be it as it will, this *Company* has made it ſelf very conſiderable in the *Indies*, and has at preſent divers Money-Tables there, under two principal *Directors*, or *Preſidents*, the one of which has his Reſidence at *Surrat*, and the other at *Bantam*, by whoſe Authority the Trade of thoſe Parts is managed. Thus has the Induſtry and Valour of theſe People eſtabliſhed and maintained their *Commerce* againſt all Oppoſition; and though their Enemies have done their utmoſt to cruſh their Deſign, and brought the Difference even to an open and bloudy War, they have gained nothing but ſhame by the Conteſt, without ever being able to hinder their Courſe and Progreſs, which indeed they had no colour at all to endeavour to obſtruct.

The *Danes*, its truth, manage not ſo great a Trade in the *Indies* as the reſt, neither are their Fleets there ſo numerous; but ſome Concernment they have likewiſe in the Voyage, and their Agents upon the Place; and from time to time they ſend out Shipping thither. Their Buſineſs lies commonly in the *Gulf of Bengala*, upon the Coaſt of *Pegu*, and in certain *Iſles* of the *South*, where they have rendred themſelves conſiderable.

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In fine, the Famous *Guſtavus Adolphus* King of *Sweden* thought himſelf obliged, as upon a point of Honour, and Greatneſs, that his Subjects alſo ſhould Viſit the *Oriental-Indies*, and other parts of the World; and in the very Inſtant, that this Prince (whoſe mind was ſet upon *Dominion* and *Glory*) was diſpoſing of his deſign to enter *Germany*, and contriving the ruine of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, he had likewiſe in his *Projects* the forming of a *Swediſh Company*, for this great *Navigation*, inviting his People to intereſt themſelves therein, as by his *Letters-Patents*, dated at *Stockholm* the 14th. of *June*, 1626. is made to appear; but the War of *Germany*, and the death of this *Great Prince* coming on ſoon after, would not permit him to ſee the accompliſhment of this deſign, which ſince that time has been again renewed.

All this conſidered, what would the *French* Nation have to ſay for themſelves, if they ſhould now let ſlip the opportunity of an enterprize, that has rewarded all that have ever embarqued in it, with reputation, and profit? If we have neglected it hitherto, it may ſerve for an excuſe, that we have not been hitherto in condition to attend it, by reaſon of our conſtant troubles. But now that we are in a State of Tranquility, and Peace, what ſhall acquit us to Poſterity, if we defer it any longer? It would be very ill done indeed to envy our Neighbours the fruits of their honeſt, and lawful induſtry; but it would not be well on the other ſide, to decline the ſame means of enriching our ſelves, if it were but for the conſervation of our *Common-Good*, the benefits of *Commerce* ſerving as a recompence of *Their* labour, and travail, while the greater part of *Our* People lie lazing at home, as of no uſe, and without employment.

But Men are not eaſily perſwaded to engage upon new Adventures, they are afraid that things will not prove to their minds, and every Man is unwilling to make the firſt ſtep. Theſe thoughts, doubtleſs, might well enough have become the *Portuguez*, that had a vaſt Sea before them, and were to paſs into another *Climate*, and under other *Stars*,

without any knowledge of the Course they were to steer. This Apprehension might have been pardoned also in the *Hollanders*, whose Design lay in a Country where their mortal Enemies were Masters, and where they were in more danger from the *Portuguez*, than either from *Storms*, or the *Barbarians* themselves. But now that the former of these has led the way to this Fortunate Land, and the latter has disabused us, as to any fear of peril from those that were there before us, we must be wilfully blind, not to agree upon an Advantage so certain upon the accompt, and so easie to obtain. For, Whether *France* be more Potent, or not, than any other Nation that Trades to the *Indies*, is not the Question; neither can it be disputed, whether the *French* have not as good Commodity for this *Traffique* as any other People, if it be considered, that we are possessed already beyond the *Cape of Good-hope*, of the Island of *St. Laurence*, or *Madagascar*, the largest Island of all that Sea, being no less than *seven hundred Leagues* in *Compass*, and in the most agreeable *Climate* of all *India*. The Air is so temperate, that the same Clothes which we wear here in the *Spring*, may serve there the whole Year through; and Experience tells us, that the *Heats* of *France* are more troublesom, than those of *St. Laurence*. The *Soil* is proper for all sorts of *Grain* and *Trees*, and asks nothing but Dressing, to be admirable. There is no need of carrying *Provisions* thither, as to other Islands, for the Support of the *Colonies*; the Abundance of every thing being so great, that the Country produces enough for it self, and to spare. The *Waters* are excellent, the *Fruit* delicious, and, without *Hyperbole*, the Place may be improv'd into a *Paradise*. Over and above this, there are *Golden Mines* in such plenty, that in great falls of Rain, and ravages of Water, the *Veins* of *Gold* discover themselves all along the Coast, and upon the Mountains. The *Inhabitants* are of a disposition tractable enough, and with good usage ready and willing to be employed in any Service; being a People humble, and obedient, and of a

Humour

Humour far differing from those of the Country, and of the Islands further up in the *Indies*, who will not upon any Terms subject themselves to Labour; whereas these, on the contrary, both love it themselves, and take pleasure to see the *Christians* work. The Country is shared among divers petty Kings, who are still making War one upon the other, and from whose Disagreements we might easily take a Rise to an absolute Establishment of our selves among them. Beyond this Place the Trading lies open, without difficulty, into *India*, *China*, *Japan*, and more commodiously yet to the Coasts of *Ethiopia*, and Territories of the Emperour of the *Abyssins* (where *Commerce* is scarce understood); to *Sofola*, where are the richest *Gold-Mines* upon the face of the Earth; to *Quama Melinda*, to the *Red-Sea*, and throughout the *Persian Gulf*. In a word, There is not any where a fitter Place for a General *Magazin* of all Commodities to be brought from those Parts into *Europe*, than is this Island. But this Convenience should not yet hinder us from planting also in other Places, where it may be expedient for the good of our Affairs; and such a Place we have in our Eye, where no Person as yet inhabits, which we have now in our power to seise upon, and where the greatest *Commerce* might be established, that has been yet known in the World. (Where this Place is, shall be declared in fit season.) So that it is our part now, not to let so many favourable Concurrences slip through our Fingers, and to lose the benefit of so fair an Occasion. We are apt to admire the Good-fortune of our Neighbours, and it deserves it: But 'tis not enough barely to admire, unless we also emulate it; especially having so many Encouragements to promise our selves a Success, at least equal, if not superiour to any that have gone before us. Besides, there is a great part of the World that remains still unknown, vast *Regions* that are not yet discovered: So that although others have had the good fortune to have preceded us, we may yet have the Honour to carry the Business further than they have done.

But as it seems necessary, for the bringing of this Great Design to effect, that we should follow the Example of other People, in forming a *Company* among our selves, for the Navigation of the *East-Indies*; and that we must needs do the *Hollanders* this right, to acknowledge, that their *Society* is both the Richest, and the best read in the Mystery of that *Commerce*, of all that have ever medled with it: It will not be amiss to look into the Constitution of that Company, and the manner of their Proceedings, that any Man may the better judge, whether we have any reason or no to doubt of doing as much as they have done before us.

THe War betwixt *Spain* and *Holland* having ruined one part of the *Hollanders Commerce*, without which they would have had much ado to subsist, certain Merchants of *Zealand* associated among themselves, in the Year 1592. to go and Trade in the *East-Indies*, and particularly in such Places where the *Portuguez* had nothing to do: but to avoid the hazard of being too neer the Line, they resolved to search a Passage toward the *North*, and so to Coast about *Tartary* and *Cathay*, and from thence to fall into *China* and the *Indies*. This Voyage not succeeding to their wish, they joyned themselves afterwards with some Merchants of *Amsterdam*, and all together equipp'd a small Fleet of four Vessels, which they sent forth to *India* by the ordinary way, under the Command of one *Cornelius Houtman*, who having lived long at *Lisbon*, had learned from the *Portuguez* the Secret of this *Navigation*. In 1595. they departed, and at the end of two Years and four Months returned, without making any Profit of their Voyage. This little disappointment did not hinder them from forming at the same time a *second Company*, in the same Town of *Amsterdam*; and these two *Companies* being united, set forth a Fleet of *eight* Ships, that went out in 1598. while a *third Company* in *Zealand* were making ready for the same design. In the Year 1599. certain other Merchants of *Amsterdam* (the most part of them *Brabanders*) framed

framed yet another *Company* apart from all the reſt, which ſent alſo *four* Veſſels to the *Indies*. In 1600. this latter *Company* ſet out *two* more, which joyned themſelves to *ſix* other of the *firſt Company*; and theſe *eight* Ships being gone, the Members of theſe *two Companies* not waiting for their return, equipp'd *thirteen* Veſſels (the firſt Company *nine*, and the latter *four*;) and this Fleet went to Sea in *April*, 1601. putting the Profits of the firſt Voyage into a *Stock*, for a ſecond *Equippage*. There were at that time ſome Merchants of *Rotterdam* and *North-Holland*, that were modelling of *Companies* ſeparate from the reſt (which encreaſing in this manner, gave greatly to fear, that one would ſpoil the other:) Whereupon the *States*, foreſeeing what diſorder this Diviſion might cauſe, perſwaded them to unite all their Intereſt, and to ſend their *Deputies* to the *Hague*, to endeavour there to draw them all into one *Company*: in which Propoſition the Parties concerned did acquieſce; and ſo there was conſtituted one *General Company* for the *Eaſt-Indian Navigation*, with a Grant or Privilege from the *States*, expreſly inhibiting all other the Inhabitants of the *United Provinces* to Traffique in the *Indies*, from the *Cape of Good-hope* to the furtheſt part of *China*, for the Term of *one and twenty years*, to begin from the Twentieth of *March*, 1602. By this Grant it was left free for all Perſons whatſoever to enter themſelves into the *Company*, for what Sum they pleaſed, provided that they declared themſelves within *five* Months; after which, no more ſhould be received, upon what Terms ſoever. In this ſpace of time they gathered together a *Fond* or *Stock* of *Six millions and ſix hundred thouſand Livres* Money of the Country, (which make *Seven millions nine hundred and twenty thouſand Livres* of *France*) and no Man ſince that has been taken anew into the *Company*, at leaſt without having bought the Share of ſome of the *firſt* Intereſſed, which they call BUYING OF AN ACTION. There were made alſo divers Rules, for the maintaining of Order, and preſerving the Intereſt of each Particular, which were explained

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in the Grant. In the mean while, the first Term expiring in *March*, 1623. it was continued for *one and twenty* Years longer, and in 1643. renewed again for *twenty seven* Years, in consideration of a *Million and six hundred thousand Livres* given to the State; and they are now solliciting to renew their Privilege again for a further Term.

The first Sum of *Six millions and six hundred thousand Livres* was employed upon the Equipping of a Fleet of *fourteen* Sail, that set out in *February*, 1603. and after that, of another of *thirteen*, that departed in *December* following. Till then, the Persons interested made no benefit at all of their Adventure; for being divided into so many private *Companies*, they were fain to lay out all their Gains upon a stronger *Equipage*: But upon the return of these *two* Fleets, the Profit was so great, that in 1605. the *Company* got *Fifteen* for a *Hundred*, and in 1606. *Seventy five* for a *Hundred*: So that in this short time they wanted but *Ten* in the *Hundred* of reimbursing themselves their *Original Sum*. In this *interim*, the Company did not slacken at all in their Preparations and Provisions: They treated with the *Indian* Kings, built *Fortresses*, and every where enlarged their *Conquests*; which vast Expences notwithstanding, it appeared in *May*, 1613. that every Man was reimbursed his *Principal*, and had over and above, *a hundred and sixty* Profit, As for example: He that in 1602. put *Four thousand Franks* into the *Stock* of the *Company*, had received in 1613. *Ten thousand and four hundred* Profit, and yet his *Original* good in the *Common Stock*. And this *Gain* has been so much augmented since that time, that there are few Years wherein they get less than 30 *per Cent*. In 1661. they gained 40. In 1662. there was no Distribution at all, by reason of *four* Ships lost, which they have never heard of since; beside the extraordinary Charge they were at for the Siege of *Cochin*: But in 1663. they had 30 again *per Cent*.

The *Company* at every *ten* Years end makes a general *Inventory* of the whole Business; and by that which was made

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in 1661. it was found to be in poſſeſſion of the immenſe Wealth above-mentioned.

This *Company* has not onely enriched *Particulars*; but the Advantages which the Body of the *Republick* draws continually from it, are almoſt ineſtimable. In the firſt place, all Commodities that are brought from the *Indies* into the *States* Ports pay at leaſt *ſeven* in the *hundred*, and before they come into *France* are unladen in *Holland*, where they pay all their Rights of IN and OUT (before they come to us) ariſing to *ſix per Cent.* and *One per Cent.* more for the Duties of *Convoy*; which *Seven per Cent.* go clear to the *Republick*, beſide *Two* in the *Hundred* more for *Factorage*, and the Charge of *Merchandizes*: So that upon this Reckoning we pay *Twelve per Cent.* more for *Indian* Commodities, than they would coſt us if we fetched them our ſelves. Whence it follows, that our *Negociants*, making the ſame Profit of theſe Merchandizes which the *Holland Company* does, might be able to furniſh us at *Twelve* in the *Hundred* better cheap than others; becauſe we ſhould ſave the Duties that are now paid in *Holland*, (an Expence that every Year draws vaſt Sums out of *France*, where are conſumed at leaſt a *third part* of what the *Hollanders* bring out of the *Indies*.)

A ſecond Advantage which the *States* draw from this *Company*, is, that upon every Renewing of their Grant, it makes them a conſiderable Preſent; the laſt (as we have ſaid already) amounting to no leſs than *Sixteen hundred thouſand Livres*.

In the third place, It maintains at leaſt *Fourſcore thouſand* Men, the greater part whereof would otherwiſe be a Burthen to the *State*.

The laſt, and the moſt important Conſideration, is, That this *Company*, in weakning the *Commerce* of the *Portuguez*, who were a long time under the Obedience of his *Catholick* Majeſty, did alſo weaken the *Spaniſh* Monarchy (their great Enemy) and by that means made their way to a Peace.)

They Equip every Year for this Voyage *twelve* fair Ships,

from *eight hundred* to *fourteen hundred Tuns*, which depart at ſeveral Seaſons; and every Year, preciſely at the end of *June*, there return as many, or thereabouts. The *Company* and the *States* uſually in the Month of *May* ſend out their Men of War to meet them, partly as a *Convoy*, and to defend them againſt their Enemies, and partly to relieve them with freſh Men, and other Neceſſaries, as they have occaſion. The principal Place which this *Company* has in the *Indies*, is called *Batavia*, a Town that they have built in the Iſland of *Java major*, not far from *Sumatra*: they have there their *Magazins*, and Stores of all the Commodities which they bring into *Europe*, from the ſeveral Countries of the *Indies*, of *Japan*, of *China*, and of other Kingdoms. They have alſo *Colombo* in the Iſle of *Ceylon*, which they have lately taken from the *Portuguez*. (This Iſland furniſhes the whole World with *Cinamome*.) In fine, they poſſeſs divers other Places, even from the *Gulf* of *Perſia*, to the Extremity of *China*; and they have reckoned a good while ſince, *ſeven and thirty Magazins*, and *twenty* conſiderable *Forts*, which they had in the *Indies*.

For the greater Advantage and Liberty of their *Commerce*, they have their *Agents* about all the Kings in thoſe Quarters, as the King of *Perſia*, the *Great Mogol*, the Kings of *China*, *Japan*, *Cochinchine*, and divers others. See now to what degree of Greatneſs this *Company* is arrived: a *Society* of particular Merchants, low enough at firſt, both in Fortune, and every way elſe; but now advanced not onely beyond their Hopes, but their very Pretences.

But there is not any thing which a *Company* of this Condition, by *Union*, *Conduct*, and *Courage* may not accompliſh. This Truth being ſo clear, and the ſame Advantages now offer'd us, ſhall we not make uſe of them? Or ſhall we rather acknowledge to the World, that we want *Unity*, *Addreſs*, or *Courage*? The *laſt* is a Reproach which our very Enemies will never faſten upon us; nor with any colour of Reaſon will it be pretended, that we want *Addreſs*: For (to ſpeak

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in this Place only of *Navigation*) It is certain, that better Seamen cannot be desired than ours are, and the *Hollanders* know that well enough, who make use of the *French* more than of any other Nation, and find themselves better served with *them*, then with their *own*. As to the point of *Union* (not to dissemble the matter) without doubt, we are there too blame, and 'tis a fault of our Nation, which certainly deserves our greatest care to redress. To say the Truth, what a shame is it, that the *French*; the People of all the World the most accomplish'd, a Nation with whom *Valour*, *Magnificene*, *Good Nature*, *Civility*, *Learning*, the *Liberal Arts* seem in a manner, to have chosen their abode. That *these* People, I say, should be so hardly brought to endure one another; that their *Societies* should be so unconstant, their agreement so difficult; that the most hopeful affairs in the World should perish even in their hands, by I know not what Fatility of this *lightness*; without which discord among themselves, it were almost impossible to resist them.

When the *Hollanders* began their Company, how many were there even of an ordinary condition, that sold themselves to their very Houshold-stuff for the furnishing of a *Sock* to begin withal; because of the Honour, and Benefit which they foresaw, would accrue to their Country. And shall the *French* having so many other excellent qualities, fail at last in so material a point, as to be wanting in their Zeal, and Duty to the Glory, and Well-being of the *Publick*. I dare promise my self this will never be; and since we are now in an Age of *Wonders*, that must give remedies to all our evils, and renew our whole Frame: Let us not leave the least mark of that antient blemish; but by a constant kindness among our selves, and a true and dutiful Love of our Country give the World to know, that our Great and Incomparable Prince has influenced his People, and Inspired them with a Virtue, which they never had before.

But what shall we do then? will some say. Our Business in the first place must be (as is already said) to compose a Society of divers Persons, that will unanimously contribute to the Execution of our Design; which Society shall carry the Name of *THE FRENCH COMPANY for the COMMERCE of the EAST-INDIES.*

Our next Work must be to Equip a Fleet, and to go directly and make a *Descent* upon our Island of *Madagascar*, which we may do without any resistance, and begin there with a considerable Establishment, which from time to time shall be supported and maintained by strong *Colonies.*

We must then resolve to carry thither onely Men of Honesty and Courage, not Criminals redeemed from the Gibbet or the Galleys, nor Women condemned for Debauchery and Lewdness. Part of these People shall be employed in Tilling the Ground (which will be a matter of exceeding Benefit) while the rest shall be making themselves Masters of the principal Posts of the Country, and securing of Ports, whereof there are divers in this Island, capable of two or three hundred Vessels, to ride without danger. Thus much for the *Preliminaries* of our great *Commerce.*

I know very well, that this Proposition will not please all People; and some will tell you, perhaps, that the *French* have been at *Madagascar* already, and *What did they there?* They will tell you too, that Monsieur *Flacourt* (who was the Director of the *Company* that was then made) has sufficiently manifested the Vanity of this Project, in a Relation that he has published upon this Subject. Well! But are we now to learn, that a Business that has miscarried at one time, may succeed at another? How many Great Enterprizes do we find in Story, that have required several Tryals to bring them to perfection? The first *Spaniards* that planted in the *Isles* of *America* were all slain; and yet this Disaster did not discourage the Undertakers from sending more. The *English Colonies* in *Virginia* have been four or five times destroyed; and yet this has not made them abandon the Country. To-

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come once again to the example of the *Hollanders*. The First ſtep, they ſet toward their *Indian* Adventure (endeavouring to find out a new Paſſage) was moſt unfortunate to them. The ſecond time; 'tis true, they got thither; but they made nothing of their Voyage. Did they give it over for that? No, by no means. They returned a third, a fourth time, and at laſt gathered with Intereſt the Fruits of their Perſeverance. But this is not all neither; for the World muſt know, that there is a large difference, betwixt the buſineſs of *Monſieur Flacourt*, and *That* which is *Now* in Queſtion. A large difference, betwixt a *Company* compoſed of a ſmall number of *Private Perſons*, and that wanted *Stock* for the accompliſhment of ſo great a deſign, and the *Company*, which is *Now* in Propoſal to be erected. For after all; we are not without hope, that the *King* himſelf, (who has ſo great an affection, and Tenderneſs for his People) conſidering the notable benefits, which this Enterprize will bring to his Dominions, will *Himſelf* I ſay, lend his Royal Support, and rather than fail, even enter into a *Participation* in the deſign: So that the conſequence betwixt *Monſieur Flacourts* affair; and *This* at preſent, holds no proportion. And this muſt be acknowledged too; that (the misfortune notwithſtanding, into which he was caſt, by the fault of the *Company*) he has been ever known to ſay; Nay, and publickly to *Declare*, and *Print* at the end of his Relation before mentioned, that a conſiderable ſettlement in *Madagaſcar* (which muſt be Vigorouſly begun, and watchfully perſued,) would bring an advantage to the State of *France* beyond imagination: Conſidering the Goodneſs, and Fertility of the *Country*, the Gentle, and Induſtrious diſpoſition of the *People*, and the Commodious *Situation* of the *Iſland* for the entertainment of *Commerce*. And this which we deliver is ſupported by the agreeing Teſtimony of ſo many Nations, newly come from thence; as *Flemmins*, *French*, *Hollanders*, *Engliſh*; that to diſpute the Point, were to offer violence to Truth it ſelf. *Monſieur Flacourt* did not ſo

much as wish for more, than one lusty Ship to be sent every Year from *France* to *Madagascar*, to carry on the design. What are *We* to expect then, that propose no less than *Fourteen* or *Fifteen, at a Blow*? The transporting of *Five Hundred Men* thither was the very utmost of *His* desire, but *We* speak of carrying as many *thousands*. The disbursment of a *Hundred and fifty thousand Livers* upon an *Equipage*, was a sum that *He* had not the confidence so much as to propose; but *We* have in our prospect, the expence of many *Millions*. In a word, *His* reasonings were proportioned, to the abilities of a *Company* of *Private Persons*; but *We* speak of erecting a *Company*, whereof 'tis possible, that his *Majesty Himself* will not disdain to be a *Member*; and by his Royal *Participation*, influence it with a certain Character, particular to the Dignity of such a constitution. So that the the odds betwixt *our Model*, and *His* is evident, and that we shall be able to carry our business higher, than ever he could have raised his imagination. But let that go as it will, of the *Isle* of *Madagascar* a Man may safely say, that with a very little care to Fortifie there, we may have not only one place, but many, and those of greater Value, than all that the *Hollanders* can pretend to be Masters of in the *Indies*; take it either in regard of the *Place* it self, or the convenience of *Traffique*. Surely it cannot be denied to be incomparably more *Commodious*, and *safe*, than *Batavia* in the *Isle* of *Java*, where the *Hollanders* have pitcht their *Principal Residence*. More *Commodious* doubtless it is, as being in a *Gentle Climate*, and having within it self whatsoever may honestly serve either to the Pleasures, or necessities of humane Life. Whereas on the *contrary*, there is scarce any thing to be gotten about *Batavia*; but the *Company* is fain to fetch from afar off the very *Rice*, *Meat*, and *necessary Provisions* for *Five* and *twenty*, or *Thirty thousand* Persons, to their great Trouble, and expence. And then *Madagascar* is certainly a *safer* place; for the Natives of *Java* are a *Brutal, Bold, Warlike*, and *Stubborn* People: By profession

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Mahometan, and consequently Haters, and Dispisers of *Christians*. The *Hollanders* have for their Neighbours, on the *One* side the King of *Matarun*, a Prince, that shews himselfe now and then at their very Gates with a *Hundred Thousand Men*. On the *Other* side they have the People of *Bantam* (a matter of *Twelve Leagues* from *Batavia*) who have often done the same as the King of *Matarun*. Whereas the Inhabitants of *Madagascar*, on the contrary, are of a *meek* and *quiet humour*, discovering withall a singular inclination to receive the Gospel. So that one is more secure with a *hundred* Men in *Madagascar*, than with above a *thousand* in *Java*. But this is not all yet, that the Place is more *delightful* and *secure*; but it lyes much better also for *Traffique*: for I cannot but take Notice of another Inconvenience, which the *Hollanders* suffer, in having their General *Magazin* at *Batavia*. It lyes so farr up in the *Indies*, that it makes their Voyages *long* and *dangerous*, and a great part of them to no purpose. When you have brought them within view of *Madagascar*, they have still a *Third* part of their Way further to *Batavia*. And when they are *There*, they must come back again the same way they went, and with the same Winds, that would carry them into *Europe*, only to *Traffique* in the *Gulf* of *Bengala*, upon the Coasts of *Coromandel*, and *Malabar*, at *Ceylon*, *Surat*, in the *Persian Gulf*, and upon the Coasts of *Ethiopia*, and after all this, they must *back again* with their Merchandize for *Batavia*, and *there* at last they make their *Cargasons* for *Holland*. So that the very *Scituation* of the Place gives them the trouble of passing the same Way two or three times over, whereas by planting our Principal Magazin at *Madagascar*, all this doubling would be saved: For being there once, let us go which way we will; either toward the *Red-Sea*, the *Gulf* of *Bengala*, *China*, *Japan*, or the most remote *Islands*, we are never out of our Way; but when we shall have made our Markets, and carried our Commodities to *Madagascar*, every hour of our Passage will have brought us so much near Home. So that we shall

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have nothing to Stop us, but foul weather: None of this *back, and forward*, this turning, and Crossing, to make the way tedious. Take this along with you too, that when you are once at *Madagascar*, you are upon as good a breathing-place as you would wish, with all Conveniences about you, to refresh your Men, and follow your course at Pleasure: Whereas the *Hollanders*, after they are once under Sail from *Batavia*, meet with no such relief betwixt *That*, and *Home*: (commonly a Seaven-Months Voyage) for want of which, they are so miserably Harrassed with the Voyage, that a long time it takes them to recover it. And there remains yet another inconvenience; (from which we are exempt) that is; When they are come into *Our Seas* they dare not pass the *Channel*, for fear of the *English*, with whom they are at variance, upon the very point of the *Indian-Trade*; but away they go on still to the *Northward*, and so about *Ireland*, and *Scotland* (a matter of *Four or Five Hundred Leagues compass*) to fall at last into their own Country by the way of the *German Ocean* (which is the true reason of the *Companies* allowing an *Augmentation* of *Three Months Pay*, to all the Officers and Seamen (upon this Voyage) above their ordinary Wages.) So that they have both extremities of heat and cold to encounter in their return. And we are now to presume, that the *Company* puts upon account all these Rubbs, and Stops in the way, which make the Navigation both more hazzardous, and expensive, and rate their Commodities accordingly. This is enough said, I suppose to prove the *Situation* of *Madagascar* better than that of *Java*, and consequently, that the matter in hand is worth our care.

To Instance now in our *Own Nation*, the *French* make no difficulty at all to adventure upon the *American Isles*, as St. *Christopher*, *Martinique*, *Guadalupe*, and others (where there are at least *Thirty thousand persons*) and yet these are places, where there is no living without succour from *Abroad*; and if the *English*, and *Hollanders* with whom they

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Traffick, ſhould not ſupply them with *Bread*, *Wine*, and *Victuals*; nay and with *Slaves* too, to order their Grounds, they were not able to ſubſiſt two Years to an end without extream miſery; which would enforce them at laſt to quit their hold. From hence it proceeds, that the *Engliſh* and *Hollanders* get away all their *Sugar*, *Tobacco* and *Indico*, with which they furniſh us afterward, at a dear rate; ſo that the *French* are they that reap the leaſt benefit of their own Labours. Taking this for granted, what can be clearer, than that we are under a groſs, and moſt unreaſonable prejudice, in rather chuſing to ſend out *Colonies* into places, ſubjected to ſuch *Inconveniences*, then to Plant a Large and Fruitfull *Iſland*, fitted with all Advantages, both of *Plenty*, *Pleaſure*, and *Commerce*? And all this, becauſe *Monſieur Flacourt* failed in the buſineſs; becauſe a matter of a *Hundred*, or *Six ſcore Men* miſcarried in it, (even by the fault of the very Company it ſelf.) Theſe People ſhould do well to obſerve, that we are now upon another manner of deſign; upon an Enterprize not unworthy of that great Prince, who will have the goodneſs to make himſelf of the Party.

I muſt expect now to be queſtioned, be what *Authority* I talk at this rate, and who made me an *Undertaker*? Truly, I ſhall not take upon me beyond my Commiſſion; but I think it may be very fairly preſumed, that ſo accompliſhed a Prince, as his *Chriſtian Majeſty* will never refuſe to Comfort, and Protect his People in an affair of this Weight; or ever fall ſhort of that affection, which the Kings of *England* have conſtantly manifeſted toward their Subjects upon the like occaſion. A Man may ſay indeed that his Majeſties daily Acts are a ſecurity to the contrary; and he that ſhall conſider, that ſince the Year, 1658. the King has ſtruck off *Twenty millions* a Year in *Taxes*, and ſince that, brought down the price of Salt: How that in the Scarcity of, 1661. (which threatned us with an Inevitable Famine,) he did out of his proper Coffers provide for the Importation of Prodigious quantities of Grain, to relieve the neceſ-

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ſities of his People, and particularly of *Paris*, where the Number made the Evil the more dangerous: He, I ſay, that ſhall duely conſider what we have both ſeen and taſted of this kind, will never doubt of His Majeſties propenſion to further the Advancement of this *Company* to all purpoſes imaginable.

If there were nothing elſe of inducement in the thing, it would be ſufficient alone to prevail upon His Majeſty, to ſee that the Eſtabliſhment of this Great and Noble *Commerce*, by opening an honeſt and certain way of Livelihood to the whole *French* Nation for the future, would inſenſibly wear out and baniſh all thoſe other ignoble and ſhifting ways of Living, which in our days have been but too much in practice and credit; that this happy Abundance would bring us again to a Sincerity in our Dealings, and put out of countenance that *Trade of Wrangling* which the inſatiable greedineſs of a lazy ſort of Men has raiſed to the higheſt degree of Iniquity; That it will be a ſure way of *Employment* for thoſe that languiſh for want of *Buſineſs*, whoſe Induſtry is as good as loſt, when it is not exerciſed; and, in concluſion, that it will be an indubitable *Relief* to a World of Poor, who have at preſent no other Choice, than either a ſhameful Beggery, or ſome Criminal Courſe to deliver themſelves from it. So that ſince the thing in queſtion has no leſs an influence upon the *Intereſt* and *Honour* of the *State*, than upon the *Profit* of *particular Perſons*, we may be confident of his Majeſties Royal Favour and Aſſiſtance toward the Accompliſhment of ſo Glorious and Beneficial a Work.

TO come to the Point then: There muſt be firſt a *Fond* or *Stock* of *Six millions*, to be laid out upon the Equipage of *twelve* or *fourteen fair Ships*, of Burden from *eight hundred* to *fourteen hundred Tuns*, for the convenience of paſſing ſuch a number of Perſons into our *Iſle* of *Madagaſcar*, as may take poſſeſſion of it in a handſom faſhion.

I would here propose that His Majesty might be humbly besought, to put in for a *Tenth part*, and I perswade my self it might be readily Obtained.

I am further Assured, that there are divers Persons of Eminent Condition in this Kingdom, that would be willing to Venture Considerable Sums upon This Bottom, in Case the Merchants, who shall first Associate toward this Constitution, shall think it Convenient. And in this Case, I reckon upon *Three Millions*, as good as *Raised*; so that we are Advanced the *One Half already*. And for the *Other Moyety*, I would Recommend it to all Merchants, Burgers of Towns, and in a more Especial manner to all that love the Honour of their Country, and desire the Laudable Advancement of their Proper Fortunes, to bethink themselves seriously of the Business, and to make their *Zeal* as Remarquable to the *Present Age*, as the *Reward* of it will Render them in their Generations to *Posterity*.

For their further encouragement, I have great Reason to believe, that his Majesty after his Engagement for a *Tenth* in the first Expedition, will be prevailed with to furnish more for the *Second*, *Third*, and *Fourth*, if it shall be thought needful.

His Majesty may be also supplicated to remit to this Company, the *One* Half of his Rights of *Entry* and *Customs*, throughout all *France*, for all *Indian* Commodities Imported thither.

In fine, upon a strong presumption, that the King will shew himself in This, as in all other Cases, the *Father of His People*: I flatter my self with a strange hope, that his Majesty may be perswaded to take upon Himself, the *Risque* of the First *Eight* or *Ten* Years; which if it comes to passe, let the world Judge by that signal Engagement, how his Majesty stands Affected to this Affair, and whether the Opinion, which I have entertained concerning it, be not somewhat more then the Vision of a man, that dreams waking.

As for *Private* Persons, they shall have liberty to Interest themselves in the *Company* for what Sum they please, till the *Stock* shall be *Compleat*, after which no more shall be Admitted: And

for the ſpeedier Raiſing of the Sum, His Majeſty ſhall be deſired, that *Strangers* (as to that Particular) may have the ſame Freedom with *French-men* themſelves: by virtue whereof they ſhall ſtand *Naturalized*, whithout need of any other *Grace*; Provided that their Engagement exceed the ſum of *Ten Thouſand Livres*, in Conſideration of which Intereſt, their *Kindred* although *Strangers* ſhall be qualified to inherit their Eſtates. And for further Security, His Majeſty muſt be deſired to Grant, that in caſe of any *Rupture* betwixt *This Crown* and the *States*, whereof ſuch *Strangers* ſhall be *Subjects*, their Goods ſhall not thereupon be Seized or Confiſcated, in Conſequence of the War.

This *Company* ſhall then have its *Directors*, and to take away all Jealouſie from the Negotiants of being one Oppreſſed by another, theſe *Directors* ſhall be choſen out of the *Body* of the *Merchants* only, and the whole *Stock* put into the Hands of *One Perſon* to be named on their Part. And for the greater Encouragement of *Strangers*, and in Teſtimony of the Truſt that ſhall be repoſed in them, they ſhall be declared Capable of being *Heads* and *Directors* of the *Company*; Provided, that they bring in an Intereſt Correſpondent thereunto, and ſettle in *France* with their Families.

The King muſt be ſupplicated again to permit, that the Cauſes of the Company may in the Firſt Place be brought before the next *Conſulary Juſtice*, and by *Appeal* to the *Parliament*.

In fine, Every man ſhall be free to Offer his Advice for the Good of the Company: or, for the Security of any of the Perſons therein concerned; and his Opinion ſhall be received with Reſpect, and followed ſo far, as ſhall be found Expedient. I have now delivered my thoughts upon This Subject, which have not been hitherto unacceptable where ever I have imparted them.

But *Fear* and *Diſtruſt* (thoſe Two Ignoble Paſſions, and the Enemies of all great Undertakings,) will perhaps have the Power to work upon ſome eaſie Natures, by their ill grounded and miſtaken Reaſons; which (ſuch as they are) we ſhall frankly lay open, for the ſervice of Thoſe who otherwiſe might poſſibly ſuffer themſelves to be ſurprized. The

The *First Objection* is drawn from the Ordinary *Uncertainty* of *Events*, which is the great *Common-Place* of ſuch as want *Reſolution*, who will tell you, that *A Man can have no Aſſurance, that this New Navigation will ever come to what we Imagine*: That *Our Neighbours being already in Poſſeſſion of the* Indian *Commerce, where they are powerfully Setled, and Rooted in Familiarities with the Natives, with whom they Trade, it will be a hard matter to bring them over to Us*: *And that*, in fine, *being before-handed, and having great Magazins and Stores, they will appoint their* Factors *perchance to beat down the Market, and under-ſell us*: *So that we ſhall be quickly Reduced either to throw off all*; *or Trade to Loſs*. All this is eaſily anſwered, and we will do it in Order.

As to the *First Objection*, I reckon, that it can never enter into the Thought of a Man of Courage. Have our *Neighbours* proſpered in This Navigation, even beyond their Hopes, and is it a Reaſonable Queſtion to ask, whether *we* ſhall ſucceed, or No? It is without diſpute a point of falſe Prudence to doubt it. How ſeldom is this ſame froward Wiſdom in the Right! which requires more Certainty than the thing will bear; that would have the *Future* in *Hand*, and cannot content it ſelf with a *well-grounded Probability*. This was it, that made ſo many of the *Chriſtian* Princes to reject the Propoſition of the Famous *Columbus* (of which, notwithſtanding, they ſaw afterwards the Effects to their Amazement) the firſt that boggled at the Deſign being the *Genoeſes*; he diſcourſed the Buſineſs to the King of *Portugal*; but he had as good have ſaid nothing: And to as little purpoſe was the Project broken to the King of *England*, and to the *French* King too: (as ſome ſay) and the Favourable Audience, that he had of *Ferdinand* and *Iſabel* would have ſignified juſt as much as the Reſt, if a *Private Man* had not born the Charge of his *Firſt Expedition*, by the Advance of *Sixteen thouſand Gold Ducats*, that were Employed upon it. The King of *Spain* has the ſame Obligation alſo, for the Diſcovery of *Peru*, to *Three Private Perſons* that joined in the Deſign, which paſſed a while for an *Extravagant folly*, till the Event made it appear to be an Act of

Profound Wiſdom. In the mean time, the difference we here ſpeak of, was not without ſome plauſible Appearance of Reaſon: the Thing being as then in doubt; but with us 'tis another Caſe. The Gain is Certain, and the good Fortune which others have had there already, tells us what we our ſelves are now to expect. In one word, if our Deſign miſcarry, 'tis our own Fault, and we cannot ſay, that the Execution of it is not in our own Hands, without Offence to *Truth* and *Honour* at once.

As to the *Second Objection*, which concerns the *Vent* of our *Merchandize*; the Conceit is Idle: for Firſt, the *Company* may be ſure of *France*; becauſe (as we have proved already) *They* may afford their Commodities at *Ten* or *Twelve* in the *Hundred*, better Cheap than the *Hollanders*. (Which riſes to more than a Man would Imagine, till he comes to Compute, that *France alone* conſumes at leaſt a *Third Part* of what is brought out of *India*.) But beſides, it will not enter into my underſtanding, why *Strangers* ſhould not as ſoon buy of *Us*, as of our *Neighbours*; eſpecially when their *Intereſt* leads them to it; *France* being placed in the very Heart of *Europe*, and Acceſſible on every ſide. I ſhall ſay more, which is, that ſince *Strangers* are already under an Obligation of dealing with us, for *Four Principal Commodities*, which we have in Excellence (and which an *Italian* of great Authority, calls the *Four Load-Stones* that draw other Nations to us) That is to ſay, CORN, WINE, SALT, and HEMP; there is no doubt, but they that Traffique with us for theſe Things, would be very well content to take off our *Indian* Merchandize, as far as they have Occaſion for it, all under One. Which would be very much for the Merchants Eaſe to furniſh himſelf with whatſoever he can deſire, at one and the ſame Market. So that it is Rational to believe, not only that our *Indian* Merchandize will not be left upon our Hands; but that we ſhall have a Quicker Sale for it than other People; and by this Means recover the great Traffique, which *France* had of Old, before the *Portuguez* found out the Navigation of the *Eaſt-Indies*: for in thoſe days, all the *Perſian* and *Indian* Merchandize

dize was brought by *Land* into *Egypt*, from thence by *Sea* to *Marſeilles*; and There Diſtributed. In Conſequence hereof, it is not unlikely that our *Neighbours* whoſe beſt Card is their *Commerce*, will try all the ways in the World to *Croſs Us*. And this is the Foundation of the *Third Objection*.

In truth it may very well be, and that they will not ſtick even to pick their own Pockets, rather than we ſhall fill ours, and ſhew us a Thouſand Tricks to make us ſick of our Buſineſs. It is poſſible, that for a while they will be content to ſet their Merchandize at an under Rate, to loſe a little at preſent, to get the more hereafter, and trifle away a Million or Two upon the Experiment. But how long will this Frolick hold? or can any man Imagine, that to do us a Miſchief, they will reſolve abſolutely to ruine *Themſelves*? After all, The Conſideration how far they would expoſe themſelves upon this deſign to divert and diſcourage us, ſerves only to Confirm me in my firſt Opinion of it. They are not a People to do great things to no Purpoſe; nor would they throw away ſo much Treaſure now, but in Order to the Conſervation of their Future Intereſt. Again; They would not ſtickle ſo hard for a ſmall matter, and the very Induſtry they uſe to hinder our Commerce, proves the Benefit Conſiderable, if we carry it. So that this Objection is ſo far from moving us to relinquiſh our Enterprize, that on the other ſide it raiſes both our Hopes and Reſolutions to go through with it. To ſay all in a word, if ſo great a Bleſſing does attend us, as his Majeſties Conſent, that all the Loſs which ſhall befall the Company, for the firſt *Eight* or *Ten years* may be made good upon the Stock which His Majeſty ſhall vouchſafe to venture in the Deſign. What have we then to fear? Can it be, that a Party of *Private Merchants* (for ſuch are Our Neighbours Companies) ſhall have the Power to *ſink* a Deſign, which one of the *Greateſt Princes* of the World has a mind to *ſupport*? A Prince, who by the Admirable *Order* of his *Conduct*; the *Juſt Adminiſtration* of his *Revenue*, and by his Fatherly *Goodneſs* toward his *People*, has put himſelf into a Condition, to undertake without *Fear*, whatſoever may be put in Execution with

Honour

Honour and *Juſtice*. No, no, Our Neighbours are too wiſe to make ſo dangerous an Experiment! Let us ſay rather, that they ſhall ſee us take part of their *Commerce*, either with pleaſure, as their principal Allies; or however without having it in their Power to harm us.

The *Second Scruple* objected by ſome Particulars ariſes from the Conſideration of certain unhappy Effects of our paſt Troubles. The Prodigious Expences, which the King was at, while he was forced to maintain a War in all the parts of *Europe*; (which has now brought us however to the moſt Glorious Conſtitution, that the State of *France* ever enjoyed (Thoſe Expences I ſay, having obliged His Majeſty to call for Supplies of money now and then from his people, have left in them certain dark Imaginations and Jealouſies; that the *Stock* of the *Company* being a *Publique Treaſure*; upon the Kings next occaſion, his Majeſty might perchance ſeize it as his own. So that it would be a madneſs for Private Perſons to venture their Fortunes in a Bottom, which the King may make himſelf Maſter of at Pleaſure. But theſe are weak Heads God knows; and That they ſay, is certainly unworthy, both of the *Proſperity* of Our *Affairs* and the *Magnanimity* of our *Prince*.

The King, they ſay, *may perchance lay hand upon the Companies Stock, becauſe 'tis Publique Mony*. But I ſay, that the King will never do it for that very Reaſon. His Majeſty has heretofore had great Wars upon his hands, his *Treaſury drained*, and his *Finances miſ-menaged*, to the great diſſatisfaction of his People: but in the middle of this Preſſing Neceſſity can any man ſay, that the King ever Fingered any of the *Publique Money*: was his Majeſty ever known to Order the *Receiver* of *Conſignations* to Empty his Coffers in the hands of his *Treaſurers*? Never had any Creature ſuch a thought. For *the Publique Treaſure is a kind of Sacred Truſt*, and it were a ſort of *Sacriledge* to *abuſe* it, why ſhould any man ſuſpect the King capable of ſo prophane a violence? and that he ſhould take That *now* too, when his Coffers are full, which in his greateſt Wants, he ever made a Conſcience to meddle with? But it will be ſaid again, that the world is uncertain, and all that is in it, and that

that the greateſt Felicity imaginable cannot warrant it ſelf from Misfortune. This is true, and I think no man will diſpute the Humour and Caprice of Fortune; but let us Judge of things by probability (if not, by ſomwhat more ſubſtantial.) We ſee that moſt of our Neighbours have their hands full at home; Others are weak, and thoſe, whom we have found formerly moſt to be feared, are now well enough ſatisfied to be at peace with us. Let us conſider on the other hand, the Power of our Prince, and the unmoveable Foundations of that Power. In his Menage of *Affairs of State*, his Majeſty is *Aſſiduous* and *Indefatigable*: As to the Ordering of his *Finances*, he looks after it *Himſelf*, and underſtands the whole Buſineſs of his *Revenue*, no man better. If we turn our thoughts now toward thoſe Bleſſings, which Heaven has ſhower'd upon his Royal Perſon, that clearneſs of Wit, Solidity of Judgment, Vigour of Body, Health, Youth; We have Reaſon to believe, (if we may believe any thing in this World) that our good Fortune will be long-lived, and that God will reward his Royal Piety and Juſtice, with a Reign as laſting as Happy, and not refuſe to his *Chriſtian Majeſty* a Grace, which Heaven has ſometime beſtowed even upon *Pagan Princes*, and Conferred upon the Reign of *Auguſtus*. Away then with this Lewd Diſtruſt, that embitters all our Delights, and troubles our Heads, with the Apprehenſion of Evils which are never likely to concern us. Let it never be imagined, that a Prince ſo Generous and Juſt, after the Solemn Eſtabliſhment of a Company, under the Seal of his Authority, can ever have the thought to invade the Eſtates of Private Perſons, putting themſelves under his Protection, and by ſo foul a violence to blaſt the Glory of his Unſpotted Reputation. In a word, let not any man think, that his Majeſties flouriſhing Condition can ever be Reduced to ſtand in need of ſo *hateful* an *Expedient*, and after that, ſo *Unprofitable*. For, in fine, (to leave this Opinion nothing to ſay for it ſelf) I dare affirm, that if the King both wanted Money, and had a mind to ſeize it, the Eſtate of the *Company* would be yet ſecure. For let us look into *Holland*, and we ſhall find wherein the *Wealth* of

theſe

theſe *Companies* Conſiſts. 'Tis true; they have a world of *Merchandize* Diſpoſed of up and down in their *Magazines*, both in *India*, and *Europe*, they have their *Shipping*, their *Canon*, and their neceſſary *Equipages*; but for *Mony*, alas, 'tis the leaſt part Of their Riches; and indeed their Caſh compared with the Reſt, is ſcarce Conſiderable. Now I pray you tell me, Were it not a pleaſant Project for a King of *France* that had need of Mony, to make ſeizure of all theſe Commodities, and that at Three or Four Hundred Leagues diſtance, for the great Part. Put Caſe, that he were to raiſe an *Army* to prevent an *Invaſion*, and wanted Mony upon that Pinch; or to pay off ſome *Mutinous Troups*; Were it not a ready way think ye to ſend a Matter of a Hundred, or Sixſcore Wagons to the Houſe of the *Indian Company* for ſo many Load of *Cinamome*, and *Nutmegs*? do Princes uſe to pay their *Souldiers*, with Baggs of *Pepper*, and *Cloves*? No! no, In ſuch Caſes, This will never do their Buſineſs. In a State of *War* there muſt be *Money* in *Kind*, and not That, which *Makes* Mony in a time of *Peace*. Wherefore ſince the Eſtates of this *Company*, will not lye in *Caſh*, which is the only Thing that Princes at ſometimes may have Occaſion for: It is manifeſt that this *Apprehenſion* of the *Authority-Royal* is nothing elſe, but a *Chimera* ſet up, to oppoſe the growing Proſperity of this Nation.

There is Another ſort of People, yet more unreaſonable; But we ſhall anſwer them With the Reſt, and they'l tell ye, (taking every thing at worſt) that we are not ſure to be always at *Peace* with our Neighbours, and if there ſhould happen a *War*, how much the *Companies Shipping* would be expoſed to *the Enemy*, for they make a great Queſtion, whether the State of *France* would ever concern themſelves ſo far in the Quarrel, as their *Neighbours* do upon the like occaſion: For, ſay they, *Traffique* being the *Chief*, and almoſt the *Onely Support* of our *Neighbours*, it is their *Intereſt* to maintain their *Commerce* with their *Lives* and *Fortunes*: Whereas *France*, that lives upon it ſelf, and has within it ſelf ſo ſure a Bottom of Strengh, and Subſiſtence, will not think it ſelf much the

Poorer

Poorer for the Loſs of a *Merchants Fleet*. So that the Kings buſineſs will be to ſecure his *Frontiers*, and look to his *Garriſons*, without charging himſelf with *Armado's* to protect Us in our *Trade*. Sure theſe People do not heed what they ſay, for they confute themſelves with their own Objections. Do they confeſs, that our *Neighbours*, in a Country, not ſo good as *France*, have yet kept up *Their* Trading againſt all Oppoſers; and do they now Queſtion whether his Majeſty will uphold Us in *Ours*? What colour have they for a Perſwaſion, that the ſtronger ſhould not do That now, which they themſelves acknowledge to have been done already by the Weaker? *Not that they make any doubt of the Kings* Power, they'l tell ye; *but perhaps there will not be ſo much Care taken as might be.* They are Ignorant then it ſeems, or would be thought ſo, of what his Majeſty does every day. I do not ſpeak of his Univerſal Vigilance over all his Dominions; but of the ſpecial care he takes for the Protecting of his People in a *Foreign Trade*. They do not know, I perceive, that it coſts the King at leaſt *Four Millions* a Year, to entertain a Liberty of *Ordinary Commerce*, both in the *Eaſt* and *Weſtern Ocean*. And that it is upon this Accompt that his Majeſty is now at the Charge of a *Navy Royal*, to ſuppreſs the *Corſairs* of *Algiers*: That it is for this very End, that he Entertains another Squadron, to defend our Merchants from the Pirates of *Gallicia*. They are Strangers doubtleſs to all theſe things, without which it were not poſſible they ſhould fall foul upon ſo groſs a Miſtake. Is it not known, that his Majeſty does all This for the ſupport of a very *Ordinary Traffique*, and can any man Imagine, that he will do leſs for the Maintenance of ſo much a greater, and more *Honourable Commerce*? No man can perſwade himſelf, that the King would refuſe the ſame Countenance and Aſſiſtance to the Intereſt of a *Company*, wherein the whole *State* is concerned, which at this very day his Majeſty is pleaſed to allow in Favour of *Particular Merchants*. We have ſeen in times of War, what Pains has been taken for the Providing of our Frontiers; and a Battel fought ſometimes, only to hinder the taking of a ſmall Town,

or to ſecure a Paſs upon a River. Much more then will his Majeſty provide for the ſafety of a Fleet, that has the Prayers and Wiſhes of all *France* engaged in the Venture. In a Word, if *Intereſt* and *Honour* be the moſt *Powerful Motives* of *Humane Reſolutions*; and the *Two Poles* upon which are turned the Affairs of *Princes*, as well as of *Private Perſons*, there can be no Queſtion, but the King will employ his Power upon all occaſions to preſerve the *Company* from danger. For, that it is his Majeſties *Intereſt* ſo to do, is clear; not only in regard of his *Part* in the *Stock* of the *Company*, but by reaſon of the Infinite Number of *Merchandizes*, and *Merchants* that this *Traffique* will draw into the Kingdom, to the great Advantage of the *Revenue* of his Majeſties *Farms* and *Cuſtoms*. So that a man may rationally compute, that *The* Profit *of this Commerce, when it ſhall be once Eſtabliſhed, will be better to the King, than the* Two beſt Provinces *in his Kingdom*. Nor is it leſs manifeſt that his Majeſty is Engaged in *Honour*, than in *Intereſt*; ſince without diſpute, it is a point of *Honour* for a Prince, not to ſuffer his People to be Cruſht in a Deſign undertaken by his own Allowance and Authority. So that to ask, if the King will vigorouſly maintain us both in Peace and War, having ſo many Conſiderations to engage him to it, would be but a kind of ſenſeleſs and unmannerly Queſtion. If Neceſſity, which many times forces great Actions from mean Perſons, has been able to produce thoſe fair Reſolutions, which we admire in our Neighbours: How much more ſhall the true Love of Glory and Juſtice operate upon the Souls of Princes. The firſt are carried on by a kind of Violence: The other govern their Actions by Choice and Reaſon. Thoſe at the beſt are but wiſe enough to avoid miſchieves; but theſe are the Ordinary Inſtruments of our greateſt Good. Let us trouble our ſelves no further then about our Fleets, ſince they are under the Care of One of the beſt Princes of the Univerſe: and that miraculous Power, which ſubjects all other Powers to it ſelf, and attends him where ever he goes, ſhall Influence our new Navigators, and protect them both againſt Enemies and Storms. Neither let it be thought, that the

Conqueſt

Conqueſt which we ſhall make in his Name, will be leſs his Majeſties Care, than his other Poſſeſſions: or that he will ever endure to have his Lillies torn up, where ever they ſhall have taken Root. There is a certain inviſible Chain that Links together the ſeveral Parts of the World, though never ſo Remote, when they belong to the ſame Maſter: So that 'tis not poſſible to ſhake the One, without Violence to the Other. It is then upon the Reſolution and Power of his Majeſty, that we may confidently repoſe for the Iſſue of this Enterprize, which beginning upon a time, when this *Great Monarch* is in Effect, the *Arbitrator* of all *Europe*; when all Princes make it their Buſineſs to preſerve his Friendſhip, and avoid his Diſpleaſure. What Queſtion is to be made; but that the Reputation of his Greatneſs will carry Good Fortune and Succeſs to our *Colonies*?

Joyn your ſelves then my Maſters, Joyn your ſelves my Generous Countrymen in the purſuit of a Glorious Diſcovery, which has only been kept from you thus long, by our paſt diſorders. A Diſcovery that ſhall lead you to Advantages not to be numbred, and which ſhall yet grow in the Hands of your Poſterity. A diſcovery in fine, that ſhall carry the Fame and Terrour of Your Arms into thoſe Quarters of the World, where the *French* Nation it ſelf was never heard of. No more therefore of theſe Reproachful Jealouſies, which are ſo unworthy of your ordinary Courage and Virtue: but go on boldly under the Banner of the *Invincible* LEWIS, and be aſſured, that as the Awe, and Reverence, which his Glorious Name Imprints upon Other Nations, leaves you Nothing to fear from *Strangers:* So from *Himſelf*, you are certain to receive all the Comforts of his *Goodneſs*, *Munificence* and *Protection*.

ARTICLES and CONDITIONS,

Whereupon the Trading Merchants *of this Kingdom do moſt humbly beſeech his Majeſty to grant them his* Declaration, *and the Graces therein contained, for the* Eſtabliſhment *of a* Company *for the* Commerce *of the* East-Indies.

PARIS. 1664.

I.

FIRST, That his Majeſties Subjects of what Quality or Condition ſoever ſhall be taken into the *Company* for what Sums they pleaſe, without Loſs either of *Nobility* or *Privilege*, his Majeſty granting them in that Particular his Royal *Diſpenſation*: Provided, that under a *Thouſand Livres* no *Share* ſhall be admitted: nor any *Augmentations* under *Five Hundred*; for the Eaſe of *Accompts*, *Diviſions*, and *Sales of Actions*; A *Third* Part whereof ſhall be paid down preſently, and go to the Furniſhing of the *Firſt Expedition*; and the *Two other Thirds* within *Two years* after, by equal Portions, under pain of loſing what is already Advanced, to any man that ſhall fail of paying in his full proportion within the ſaid time: The Money ſo forfeited remaining to the Benefit and Stock of the *Company*. Allowed.

II.

That all *Strangers* (be they the Subjects of what Prince or State ſoever) ſhall have free Admittance into the ſaid *Company*; and ſuch of them as ſhall have *Ten Thouſand Livres* in the *Stock*, ſhall be reputed as *Natives*, without any further need of *Naturalizing*; by which means their *Kindred*, though *Strangers* too, ſhall have a Right of *Inheritance* to what Eſtates they ſhall be poſſeſſed of in this Kingdom. Allowed. Only putting in *Twenty Thouſand Livres* inſtead of *Ten*.

III. That

III.

Allowed. That no Part or Portion belonging to any *Particulars* in the ſaid *Company*, of what Nation ſoever, ſhall be either *Seized* by the King, or *Confiſcated* to his Profit; even although they be the Subjects of ſome Prince, or State, in open *Hoſtility* againſt His Majeſty.

IV.

Allowed. That the *Directors* of the ſaid *Company* ſhall not be moleſted, either in their *Perſons*, or *Eſtates*, for, or concerning the Affairs of the ſaid *Company*: nor ſhall the Eſtate of the ſaid *Company* be liable either to be made over, or *Seized*, upon the Accompt of any Debt due to His Majeſty from any of the Particular Members thereof.

V.

Allowed. That ſuch Officers as ſhall have 20000 *Livres* in the ſaid *Company* ſhall be diſpenſed their Reſidence, to which otherwiſe they are obliged by His Majeſties *Declaration* of *December* laſt, at the *Treaſury-Offices*, and other Places of their Eſtabliſhment: enjoying all their *Rights*, *Allowances*, and *Fees*, as if they were *Preſent*.

VI.

Allowed. Putting 8000 *Livres* in the *Firſt* Place, & 20000 in the *Second*. That all ſuch as ſhall have to the ſum of 6000 *Livres* in the ſaid *Company*, ſhall enjoy the Priviledge of *Burgers* in the Towns where they Live; unleſs *Paris*, *Bourdeaux*, and *Bayonne*: in which Places they ſhall not acquire their Freedom, unleſs they have the Intereſt of at leaſt *Ten Thouſand Livres* in the ſaid *Company*.

VII.

Allowed. Upon Condition that all thoſe that have a mind to engage in the ſaid Company ſhall declare themſelves, & ſubſcribe at the firſt Aſſembly; and at the ſame time chuſe 12 *Syndicks* to take care of what is to be done in order to the ſettlement of the *Company* till the *Directors* ſhall be nominated. That all ſuch as ſhall be willing to enter into the ſaid *Company*, ſhall be obliged to declare themſelves within *Six Months* to Commence from the Reading, and Regiſtring of the *Declaration* in the Parliament of *Paris*: after which time no more ſhall be admitted. And They that ſhall have furniſhed their Parts, and declared themſelves accordingly, ſhall have liberty within *Three Months* after the *Regiſtring* of the ſaid *Declaration* to *Nominate* and *Eſtabliſh* one *Moyety* of the *Directors* of *Pa-*

ris

ris for the *Chamber-General* of the said *Company*, and the Rest shall be named within the aforesaid Term of *Six Months*.

VIII.

That there shall be established a Chamber of *Direction-General* of the Affairs of the said *Company* in the Town of *Paris* only, to consist of *One and Twenty Directors*, and no more: *Twelve* whereof to be of *Paris*, and the other *Nine*, of the *Provinces*; to be Named, and Chosen: That is, the *Twelve*, by the Persons Concerned in the Town of *Paris*, and the other *Nine*, by the Interessed Persons in the said *Provinces*, every one in his Division; for every *Town* or *Province* shall have a Right of *Nomination*, which shall be Ordered by the *Chamber* of *Direction-General* after the settlement of it, in proportion to the *Stock* that every Town shall have brought into the said *Company*, or otherwise, as shall be thought Convenient; and for the future, the Elections shall be always made after this manner. Allowed.

IX.

In the mean while, till the said *Company* shall be *Established*, as aforesaid; for the first time, the said *Nine Directors* for the *Provinces* shall be *chosen*, and *named* by the Interessed Parties in the said *Towns* and *Provinces* Respectively; (but Provided, that it may not be drawn into Consequence for the time to come) That is to say, One from each of the Towns of *Rouen*, *Nantes*, St. *Malo*, *Rochelle*, *Bourdeaux*, *Marseilles*, *Tours*, *Lyons*, and *Dunkerque*, or such other Towns of the Kingdom, as shall have the most Considerable Interest in the *Company*. And in case, that any of the said Towns shall be found without some Interessed Person in it, there shall be Two named out of such other Town, as shall be Chosen by the *Six Directors* named for *Paris*: And it shall be lawful for the Parties Interessed in each of the said Towns respectively, to name their *Cashier* for the Receiving of their Moneys, and Remitting them to the *Cashier* of the Town of *Paris*; who shall be named for the first time by the said *Six Directors* of *Paris*, and so to continue till the *Chambers-General* shall be *Established*. Allowed.

X.

That none shall be Capable of being *Directors*, but Merchants Allowed.

chants *Trading*, and without *Offices*, except such of the Kings *Secretaries* as have dealt formerly in *Commerce*: Only it shall be lawful to admit *Two Burgers* into the number of the *Directors*, although they have never meddled with *Traffique*: Provided, that they be Persons that have no *Offices*, and that no more be taken into the said Chamber upon any ground whatsoever; the *Company* being perpetually to consist at the least of *Three Fourths* of *Negotiating Merchants*, and without *Offices*: Neither shall any Man have a Vote in the Election of the *Directors*, unless he has at least *Ten Thousand Livres* in the *Company*: Nor be chosen a *Director* for *Paris* without *Twenty Thousand Livres* at least; nor for the *Provinces* under *Ten Thousand Livres*; all in the Interest of the said *Company*.

XI.

Allowed. That it shall be lawful for the Chamber of *Direction General* to constitute Chambers of *Particular Direction*, in such Numbers and Places as they shall find most agreeable to the Interest and Benefit of the said *Company*; and likewise to Regulate the *Number* of the *Directors* of the said *Particular Chambers*.

XII.

Allowed. That all the *Accompts* of the Chambers of *Direction Particular* of the *Provinces*, shall be sent from *Six Months* to *Six Months*, to the Chamber of *Direction General* at *Paris*; where the Accompt-Books shall be View'd, Examined, and Stated, and the Profits afterward divided by the said Chamber of *Direction General*, as they shall think meet.

XIII.

Allowed. That the said Chambers of *Direction General*, and *Particular*, shall name such Officers as shall be found necessary for keeping the Cash, Books, and Papers of Accompts, for Buying and Selling; for taking Care of all Provisions, and Equipage; paying of Wages, and other ordinary Expences, every Man in his proper place.

XIV.

Allowed. That the *First Directors* shall continue in Power for the *First Seven Years*, after which time there shall be *Two* Changed every Year at *Paris*, and *One* in the *Other Chambers*; and the

the *First*, *Second*, *Third*, *Fourth*, and *Fifth* Changes of those that go out, shall be made by *Lot*: And in Case of Death of any of the *Directors*, within the *First Seven Years*, the other *Directors* shall have Power to fill that Vacancy with a new Choice; and it shall be permitted to Chuse the same *Director* again, after *six Years* Respite from the Execution of his Office: Nor shall it be lawful for Father and Son, or Son-in-Law; nor for Brothers and Brothers-in-Law to be *Directors* at the same time; and his Majesty shall be further supplicated to Confer upon the said *Directors* certain Titles of *Honour* and *Priviledges*, that may descend to their Posterity.

XV.

That the *Directors* of the said *Chambers General* and *Particular*, shall Reside by Turns, each man his Month, to begin with the Antienteſt, in each of them severally. Allowed.

XVI.

That the said Chamber of *General Direction* shall be Empower'd to make Statutes, and Rules for the Benefit and Advantage of the said *Company*, which in Case of need shall be most humbly presented to his Majesty, for the obtaining of his Royal Confirmation. Allowed.

XVII.

That the said Chamber shall make a *General Accompt* every *Six Years*, of the Estate of the said *Company*, and no man shall be suffered to withdraw himself, unless by the *Sale* of his *Action* to some one or other of the said *Company*, who shall always uphold and maintain the same Right, so that the Stock be not diminished. Allowed.

XVIII.

That his Majesty will Grant to the said *Company* (to the Exclusion of all other his Subjects) the *Sole Power* and Faculty of *Traffique* and *Navigation* from the *Cape of good Hope* throughout all *India*, and the *Eastern Seas*: Nay even from the *Streight* of *Magellan*, and the *Maire* throughout the *Southern Seas*, for the Term of *Fifty Years*, to begin from the setting out of the First Shipping from this Kingdom; during which time his Majesty shall be desired expressly to inhibit all Allowed for Fifty Years.

The Exporting of *Gold* and *Silver* being a Thing never publiquely permitted in any State, and yet at present acknowledged to be necessary. It shall be *allowed* by a *particular Permission*,

other Persons from entring upon the said Voyage, and *Commerce*; under pain of Forfeiting all their Vessels, Arms, Munitions, and Merchandize, to be applyed to the Profit of the said Company. To which Company His Majesty shall grant License to send Gold and Silver as much as shall be thought needful, both into the Isle of *Magdagascar*, and the *East-Indies*, and other Places of the said *Commerce*; all Laws and Ordinances to the Contrary notwithstanding.

to remain in the Hands of the *Directors* of the said *Company*.

XIX.

Allowed. That His Majesty shall be likewise Requested to grant unto the said *Company*, the *Propriety*, and *Lordship* of all those *Lands*, *Places*, and *Isles*, which they shall either gain from the Enemies of His Majesty, or otherwise make themselves Masters of, whether as *Abandoned*, *Uninhabited*, or in the Possession of *Barbarians*.

XX.

Allowed. That His Majesty shall comprehend in the said *Concession*, the *Propriety* of the Isle of *Magdagascar*, or Saint *Laurence*, with the Neighbouring *Islands*, *Forts*, *Habitations* and *Colonies* belonging unto any of his Subjects: Concerning which, His Majesty shall be most humbly desired to permit the *Company* to come to a fair Treaty, with those who may have formerly obtained the Grant thereof from His Majesty; or if not, that Commissioners may be appointed for the Examination of the Interest of all Parties therein concerned, for the *Indemnification* of the *Proprietors*, that the *Company* may quietly enjoy the same.

XXI.

Allowed. That the *Propriety* of the said Isles and things belonging to the said *Company*, may remain unto them after the *Expiration* of the *Grant*, to dispose of according to their own pleasure, and as their proper *Inheritance*.

XXII.

Allowed: Even to all Priviledges of Justice and Admiralty in matters concerning the Sea Affairs throughout the whole extent of the said Countries. That His Majesty shall vouchsafe to Give and Grant to the

said

ſaid *Company*, over and above the Juriſdictions, annexed to the *Seignory* and *Propriety* heretofore Granted, for the ſaid Iſle of *Magdagaſcar* and others round about it, full Power and Authority to Eſtabliſh *Judges* for the Exerciſe of *Sovereign Juſtice*, throughout the whole Extent of the ſaid Countries, and ſuch other as they ſhall ſubject to the Obedience of His Majeſty; even over the *French* themſelves who ſhall there Inhabit; Provided, always, that the ſaid *Company* ſhall name to His Majeſty the Perſons whom they ſhall chuſe for the Exerciſe of the ſaid *Sovereign Juſtice*, who ſhall ſwear *Allegiance* to His Majeſty; and Execute *Juſtice*, and Iſſue out all their *Orders* and *Decrees* in His Majeſties Name. To which effect, His Majeſty (if he pleaſes) ſhall Empower and Authorize them by *Patent*, or *Commiſſion* under his *Great Seal*.

XXIII.

That for the Execution of *Decrees*, and for all Acts where His Majeſty's *Seal* ſhall be Neceſſary, there ſhall be one Eſtabliſhed, and put into the hands of him that ſhall preſide over the ſaid *Sovereign Juſtice*. Allowed.

XXIV.

That the *Officers* conſtituted for the ſaid *Sovereign Juſtice* ſhall be Authorized to Conſtitute likewiſe ſuch a number of *Subordinate Officers*, and in ſuch places as they ſhall think meet, to be by them ſupplyed with *Commiſſions* under the *Name* and *Seal* of His Majeſty. Allowed.

XXV.

That for *Military Command*, the ſaid *Company* ſhall name to His Majeſty a *Governour-General* of the Country, and of ſuch other Countries as ſhall be ſubdued; whom His Majeſty ſhall be humbly deſired to Authorize with a *Commiſſion*, and to receive his Oath of *Fidelity*. And in Caſe that the ſaid *Company* ſhall not be well ſatisfied with his Conduct, that they may be at Liberty to name ſome other, to be likewiſe Impowred by His Majeſty. Allowed.

XXVI.

That His Majeſty will be pleaſed to grant to the ſaid *Company* the Power and Authority of ſettling *Garriſons* in all the Allowed.

Places before-mentioned, and in such other as shall be Conquered or Built; consisting of what Numbers the *Company* shall think necessary: and therein to put *Arms*, *Canon*, and *Amunition*; and to cast *Guns* and other *Arms* in what place soever, and in what Quantity soever they shall think needful; with his *Majesties Arms* imprinted upon them, and underneath them the Arms of the said *Company*, which shall be Authorized to provide for the safety of the said places as by them shall be thought Expedient. The *Officers* and *Commanders* of the said places to be totally dependent, and put *in* or *out* at the pleasure of the said *Company*; Provided always, that they shall all swear *Allegiance* to the *King*, and after that, take a *Particular Oath* to the said *Company*, in consideration of *Traffique* and *Commerce*.

XXVII.

Allowed. That His Majesty shall vouchsafe to Authorize the said *Company* to send *Ambassadors* in his Majesties Name to the Kings of *India*, and to *Treat* with them, either upon *Peace* or *Truce*, or even to declare *War* with them, and to do all other Acts which shall be deemed by the *Company* to be for the Advantage of the said *Commerce*.

XXVIII.

Allowed. That the *Directors* of the *Chamber-General* and *Particular* shall keep *Register-Books* of all the Wages and Salaries, which they shall give to their *Officers*, *Servants*, *Clerks*, *Workmen*, *Souldiers*, and others, which Books shall be good Evidence in Court, and serve for the *Decision* of Questions upon any demand or pretention against the said Company.

XXIX.

Allowed. That of all differences that shall arise upon what cause soever concerning the said *Company*, betwixt Two or more *Directors*, or *Interessed Persons*, and any one *Particular*, touching the Affairs of the said *Company*, the Circumstances and Dependences shall be judged and determined by the *Consulary Justice* to the exclusion of all others, whereof the Sentences and Judgments shall be executed *Soveraignly* and without *Appeal*, as far as 1500 *Livres*; and in Cases of a higher concern, the

the Judgments and Sentences shall be executed notwithstanding all *Oppositions* and *Appeals* whatsoever: The *Appeal* to be brought before the *Ordinary Judges* that are Properly to take Cognizance of the matter: to which effect his Majesty shall be desired to establish the *Consulary Justice* before spoken of, in the Town where it is not, and wheresoever else his *Majesty* shall find it necessary.

XXX.

That all *Criminal* matters wherein any of the said *Company* shall be a *Party*, whether as *Plaintiff* or *Defendant*, shall be determined by the *Ordinary Judges*, Provided alwayes that for No Cause or Pretext whatsoever, the *Criminal* shall ever carry along with it the *Civil*, which shall be still Judged as is aforesaid. Allowed.

XXXI.

That his Majesty shall have the goodnesse to Promise to the said *Company Protection* and *Defence* against all *Opposers*, and by force of *Arms*, to maintain them upon all occasions in the entire freedom of their *Commerce* and *Navigation*, and see them *Repaired* in case of any *Injuries* or *Affronts* offered them. And in Case further of any design against the said *Company*, to appoint them such *Convoys* both *Forward* and *Backward*, at his proper Charge and Expence, as may be sufficient to secure the *Company* not onely over all the Coasts of *Europe* and *Africa*, but even as far as *India* it self. Allowed.

XXXII.

That his Majesty shall be pleased to *Advance* at present out of his own *Coffers*, a *Fifth Part* of the whole expence for the *Three First Expeditions*, so that so soon as ever the Person Authorized for receiving of the moneys shall be named by the *Company*, his Majesty shall cause to be delivered into his hand *Three Hundred thousand Livres*, and upon his receiving of *Four Hundred thousand Livres* from the Persons Engaged, his Majesty shall cause to be delivered *Three Hundred Thousand Livres more*, and so forward to *Three Fifths*, for the first Year, which comes to *One Fifth* upon the *Whole*; (his Majesty furnishing nothing at all for the Two following Years) by virtue Allowed

of

of which Advance his *Majesty* will give a foundation to the *Establishment* of the said *Company*, which will be of so great Advantage to the State.

XXXIII

Allowed. Provided that the whole Estate of the said *Company* shall be valued *bonâ fide* by the *Chamber* of *Direction General*.

That his Majesty shall be Graciously pleased to *Lend* the said summe to the said *Company*, without *Interest*, and even without any Participation in the said Adventure, his Majesty contenting himself with the *Companies Obligation* of paying back the said summe without *Interest* at the end of *Ten Years*, to reckon from the day whereupon the said *Company* shall have perfected their *First Capital Stock*; and in case that at the end of the said Ten Years, it should appear by a *General Accompt* then to be made, that the said *Company* had lost of their *Capital*, that the whole damage shall fall upon That summe which his majesty shall have advanced. And his said Majesty shall be most humbly desired, upon valuation of the *Estate* of the *Company* (to see whether they have gained or lost) not to reckon upon *Immoveables*, *Fortifications*, *Canon*, and *Amunitions*; and to content himself with such accompt as shall be stated by the *Company*, without bringing them to any further Reckoning before the *Chamber* of *Accompts*, or elsewhere.

XXXIV.

Allowed, as to the *Exemption* of all Duties; the *valuation* of *Commodities unknown*, by the *Chamber General*, and the *Regulation* of the *Rights* upon them at three *per Cent.* And in regard that the discharge of one half of the duties of *Entry* cannot be granted in manner as is desired, for the Reasons which have already appeared upon the debate, there shall be allowed instead thereof a certain sum upon the return of each Vessel coming from the *Indies*, according to the Regulation that shall be made thereupon.

That the *Merchandizes* that shall come from the *Indies* and be consumed in *France*, shall pay but *half* the Duties charged upon them by his Majesties *Rates*, for his *Rights* of *the Five Gross Farms*; which *Moyety* shall be regulated at so much *per Cent.* And for such Commodities as shall be sent into *Foreign Countries*, or Countries exempt from Custom, whether by Sea or Land, they shall pay no Duties at all, either *In* or *Out*: and shall be deposited in their *Store-houses* of the *Customs* and *Harbours* of the Places where they Arrive; where there are any such; and where there are none, they shall be *Marked* with *Lead*, and laid up, till they are to be taken away, at which Places an accompt of them shall be given to the Persons *Interessed*, or to the *Clark* of the said *Five Gross Farms*, signed by one of the *Directors* of the said *Company*: And upon

their

their removal elsewhere there shall be an Obligation of bringing back within a certain time a *Receipt* with *Proof* that they are arrived: And as to *Merchandizes unknown*, and not as yet *Rated*, they shall pay *Three per Cent.* according to the valuation that shall be made of them by the *Chamber-General* of the said *Company*.

XXXV.

That *Wood*, and other Necessaries for building of the *Ships* of the said *Company* shall be *Exempt* from all Duties of *Entry*; The *Vessels* and *Merchandizes* free from the Duties of the *Admiralty* and *Wood*; and the *Munitions* of *War*, *Victuals*, and other things necessary for *Victuallings* and *Embarquings* requisite for the said *Company*, shall be free from all *Rights* of *In* and *Out*, during the Term of the present Priviledge. Allowed.

XXXVI.

That His Majesty shall order the furnishing of the said *Company* for their *Provisions* and *Equipages*, with the Quantity of a *Hundred Measures of Salt*, or what other number the said *Company* shall have occasion for, in the Town of *Havre de Grace*, by the Hand of the *Clark* of the *Store* of that Town, and at the *Merchants Price*: Provided always, that the *Company* shall deal fairly in the Business without Abusing the Grant. Allowed.

XXXVII.

That His Majesty shall permit the said *Company* to settle *Ecclesiasticks* in the said Isles of *Magdagascar*, and other places where they shall plant themselves, in such *Number* and of such *Quality* as the Company shall judge convenient. Allowed.

XXXVIII.

That His Majesty shall be most humbly desired not to Grant any Letters of *Protection*, *Respit*, *Evocation*, or *Delay*, to any that shall have bought the Goods of the said *Company*, or sold any thing to their Use and Service, that so the *Company* may be always in Condition to compel their *Debtors* to make just payment, according to the Form and Tenour of their Obligations. Allowed.

XXXIX.

That His Majesty shall be most humbly desired, to vouchsafe that the *Sieurs Pocquelin Pere*, *Maillet Pere*, *le Brun*, *de Faverolles*, *Cadean*, *Samson*, *Simonet*, *Jabac*, and *Scot*, Merchants; Allowed.

may

may present these *Articles*, and receive his pleasure thereupon: This *Establishment* being of infinite Advantage both to His Majesties *Kingdom*, and all his *Subjects*, who shall redouble their Vows and Prayers for the Long continuance of His Majesties Health.

XL.

Allowed. That His Majesty be most humbly desired, by the *Deputies* above-named, to vouchsafe, that in case any thing shall appear to be omitted in these present *Articles*, they may be allowed to deliver *Memorials* of them, to what Persons he shall be pleased to appoint, to make Report thereof to his Majesty, and to be made use of in His *Declaration*, which shall be Issued in Consequence of this present *Petition*.

Examined and Concluded in Our Council, the last day of *May* 1664. Signed LOVIS, and underneath, DE LYONNE.

Done *and* Resolved *at the Assembly held by His Majesties Gracious Permission at the House of* Monsieur Faverolles, *Merchant at* Paris, Tuesday *May* 26. 1664.

FINIS.